

University of Montana ScholarWorks at University of Montana

Mike Mansfield Speeches

Mike Mansfield Papers

6-1957

Introductory Remark for a Volume of Essays in Memory of Dr. Paul C. Phillips

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.umt.edu/mansfield_speeches

Recommended Citation

Mansfield, Mike 1903-2001, "Introductory Remark for a Volume of Essays in Memory of Dr. Paul C. Phillips" (1957). *Mike Mansfield Speeches*. 236.
https://scholarworks.umt.edu/mansfield_speeches/236

This Speech is brought to you for free and open access by the Mike Mansfield Papers at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in Mike Mansfield Speeches by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.

June 1957

Introductory remarks for a volume of essays in memory of
Dr. Paul C. Phillips

It is altogether fitting that a great scholar and authority on the history of the Northwest such as Dr. Phillips was, should be honored by a collection of original essays on the history of that part of our country in which he was so deeply interested. I knew Dr. Phillips well, as a student, as a personal friend and as a colleague on the faculty of Montana State University. During those years there were many occasions when I turned to Dr. Phillips as a source of counsel and guidance. He was, as always, willing to turn his intellect to the assistance of others.

This publication will be a lasting memorial of his true worth and contributions as a teacher and scholar.

Dr. Phillips was associated with the University of Montana for forty-five years and played an extremely important part in the development of one of the nation's finest schools of higher education.

During the years that I was a professor at the University it was a great privilege to be associated with Dr. Phillips. It was indeed a pleasure to work with a man of such great understanding. So few men have served the University, the community and his country in so many capacities as did Dr. Phillips.

It is interesting to look back over a full life dedicated to the study of history such as Dr. Phillips lived. He was not content with merely digging up useless facts or rehashing the past. Historical research and the teaching of history were to him fascinating and abounding with the joys of fulfillment. History inspired him to teach and develop insight and understanding of man's past and its relation to the present and future. Youthful scholars learned under his direction to read critically, interpret data carefully, and to understand the relationship of today with yesterday and tomorrow.

No where was there the pressure to learn cold dry facts. History came alive under his guidance. He lived it, he breathed it,

and he shared it willingly. History was a fire that burned within, and all who came close were influenced. He saw it as a record of change and continuity of development. Here, also was the opportunity to teach others, as he did, to select from the wide history of our country those records of events and personalities which had significance. Along with his general and all-encompassing interest in his subject he loved nothing more than the history of the Northwest.

Dr. Phillips was one of the truly great historians, willing to take on prodigious tasks and search numerous records, documents and manuscripts, unearthing minute facts that he fitted together skillfully and creating a clearer picture of our great past.

I know that each and every contributor to this publication is proud to have his name and work appear in a volume dedicated to Dr. Phillips. His research in the field was important and original, adding to the priceless information concerning our forefathers. This

publication is a partial payment on our debt of gratitude to him
and a very inadequate expression of the esteem in which we hold
his memory. The good Dr. Phillips fits so well the statement made
by Macauley "To be a really good historian is perhaps the rarest of
intellectual distinctions."

Mike Mansfield, U. S. S.